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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200

Is This Sufficiently "Overt"?

Two American women lost their lives as the result of the sinking of the Laconia by a German submarine last Sunday night.

It was in the blackness of a less night. No warning, of course, the British success makes necessary. The first torpedo that struck dealt it would seem that the Grand Duke the futal blow. The second extinguished all the ship's lights. What followed is easily imaginable. The groping through dark gangways to and egress to the decks. The frantic search of panic stricken passengers for the boats. Reports have it that the ship floated an hour. In the face of imminent death an hour is like a minute. Up on the hurricane deck the ship's two wireless operators were sending out S O S calls. So slender was the time for them that they had many of our ships which are timbarely secured an answer from a idly keeping to their home ports" nat-British warship when they felt their urally irritates the bosoms of certain ship dropping from beneath them, and leaped into the ley sea.

It was February. Dark, wintry. with a heavy swell tossing the overloaded boats. The devil fish that had delivered the fatal stroke had disap- allows that the Housatonic and the peared. Its "daredevils," as a German publicist describes the submarine offian utterly undefended and unsuspect- ance for their cargoes and when Presiing ship, and let fly their bolt of dent Wilson is as yet undecided death. That 300 non-combatants were whether they ought to carry guns? thus exposed to the perils of a win- For he speaks of defensively arming ter's night, in open boats, on a turbu- merchant vessels only "should that ent sea, was a matter of indifference. They violated every law of nations, every principle of humanity, but what senger ships confess to a certain "tiof it? For their enemies' opinious midity" about sending Americans to they cared nothing, and they believed sen when they know they cannot prothat the only neutral nation involved teet their lives and the Government was so steeped in pacifism and shall of the United States has taken no low casuistry as to inspire neither steps to protect them? respect por dread.

Two American women died in that night of terror. Reports differ as to whether they perished miserably of cold in the open boat or were drowned left before adjournment the Senate by its capsizing. It is immaterial. In will have no opportunity to take up by the German policy of ruthlessness, the President—a fortunate situation. "Well," say our pacifists in Congress, "they should have kept off belligerent in a time of foreign menace we need do so. Week after week they waited of the Atlantic and that therefore for an American ship to sail, but the we should pay Colombia \$25,000,000 op in port. Impotence, incompetence lution by which she lost her province and vaciliation in the Administration of Panama. at Washington failed to furnish these ships either with a convoy to assure to mislead many Americans who have their safety or with guns for their not taken the pains to acquaint them-

In his first Lasitania note President bouffe revolution, merely comic in its

"American citizens act within their results were big with importance to indisputable rights in taking their [the belligerents') ships and in travelling wherever their legitimate business calls The Imperial German Government will its actual overt acts in the revolunot expect the Government of the United Colombian forces at Colon were not States to omit any word or any act necessary to the performance of its sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States and its citizens and of enfeguarding their free exercise and

And in his appeal to Congress for cians, was progressing with tropical authority to handle according to his deliberation in Panama city, opposed own ideas the present international only by two Colombian gunboats in crisis the President said :

"The overt act which I have ventured to hope the German commanders would thority was the firing of a shot that in fact avoid has not occurred."

off an opium stupor in his bunk. But At that very hour the bodies of an American mother and daughter were enough Colombian troops to suppress tossing on the ley waters of the Irish See, victims to Prussian ruthlessness. to this act sufficiently "overt"?

The Fall of Kut-el-Amara.

Rut-el-Amara, lost almost a year they would commandeer the needed ago by the British to the Turks and trains. United States authority, ex-Germans, has been retaken. The re- pressed by a navy officer in command. capture of Kut, strengthened during announced its determination to prothe Turkish occupation by the Ger- tect the road from any hostile act man engineers, and the reestablish- and keep it open for ordinary traffic. ment of British influence in Persia For lack of about \$4,000 for fares the indicate the continuance of the care- Colombian army was forced to sit fully planned campaign for the con- supine in Colon while the Republic

of Panama was triumphantly erected The occupation of Bugdad is the on the other side of the isthmus. objective of the British forces. This city now lies less than a hundred of the United States had made every miles up the Tigris. Kut was its effort to complete a treaty with Costrong defence on the south. The lambia for the rights in the Isthmus reasons for the British campaign in for which we afterward paid Panama on the decks of American ships unthis part of the world were never \$10,000,000. A rapacious rabble of der the American flag cannot be atclearly stated. One purpose, how Colombian politicians defeated every tacked without an assault upon Amerever, is evident, the possession of the effort to ratify the trenty, seeking oil wells at the head of the Persian blackmail for themselves. The then Gulf. They have recently developed province of Panama, which had everygreat productiveness. As they prom-

petroleum products, their preservation off the yoke. They were paid what the act would be in no essential more became, as stated in Parliament, & Colombia would have been paid if her matter of the "highest imperial im- leaders had shown either political portance." sense or common honesty.

The possession by the British of There is no reason whatsoever for Bagdad would defeat the Kaiser's the United States to pay this belated the German Government, how long great Oriental scheme. It would give blackmail. The plea that it will make control of the eastern terminus of for us friends at a critical moment the railway which with the idea of is an unworthy one. The same plea Teutonic power and conquest back of was used, with more reason, to block it was one of the impelling causes the anti-Japanese legislation in Idaho. of the war. This roud if finished It may be set up by almost every atwould be a strong element in secur- torney or lobbyist who may be press ing the success of the Turkish-Teu- ing a claim on behalf of some foreign tonic forces in the East, for over it client against the United States Govcould be carried supplies and reenforcements to Bagdad. Despite reports from Berlin and Constantinople most favorable circumstances, peril- paying blackmail?

New factors in the situation are

much more favorable to the Allies'

Asiatic campaign than when the

British were bemmed in at Kut-el-

Amara. The Ottoman force that

threatened the Suez Canal has been

driven back. The kingdom of Hejaz

has been established and a consider-

able force of Arabs has been armed

by the French and British for war-

fare against the Turks. The army

of the Grand Duke Nicholas is hold-

is in a better position than ever be-

ish capital. By thus establishing a

Russian line from the Caucasus to

he opens the long desired way from

President Wilson's reference to "

Why should the shipowners not be

Why should not the owners of pas

Must We Buy Our Friends?

It is probable that in the brief time

Mr. Wilson's plea has been that

The plea has been plausible enougo

selves with the history of that opera-

Whatever may have been the de-

sire and intent of the Roosevelt Ad-

ministration in relation to Panama

tion were confined to seeing that the

permitted to ride on the then French

owned Panama Railroad as dead-

heads. This may sound like a re-

ductio ad absurdum, but it is the

literal fact. The revolution, consist-

ing mainly of a few plotting politi-

to the maintenance of national au-

the uprising. Their commanders de-

manded trains. The French man-

agers of the railroad, probably in-

spired thereto by United States in-

fluences, demanded fares in advance.

The Colombians, being broke, declared

Prior to this time the Government

the whole world.

the east to Constantinople.

American shipowners.

Lyman M. Law were sunk.

become necessary.

surrender to Germany sufficient withof its completion, there are undoubt- out letting the terror with which that edly missing links along the way of nation seems to have filled this Adfrom 100 to 200 miles in length, ministration impel us to sacrifice These gaps make the position of Bag- other international rights? Must we dad, difficult of defence under the buy Central American friendship by ous in the extreme if the British send

against it a large and well equipped | The Sixty-third Congress and Sad

On April 20, 1914, President Wilson went before the Sixty-third Congress "to ask your approval that I should use the armed forces of the United States in such ways and to such an extent as may be necessary to obtain from General HUERTA and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States, even amid the distressing conditions now unhappily obtaining in Mexico."

ing a strong position in Armenia. On the same day the House of Rep-This army, according to reports, has resentatives, by a vote of 337 to 37. been increased and better equipped passed a resolution, as follows: than ever before for carrying out the

original plan of campaign. With the "Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assem diversion of the Turkish troops that the British success makes necessary bled, that the President of the United States is justified in the employment of the armed forces of the United States of America to enforce demands made fore to force his way southward to upon Victoriano Huerta for unequivothe Bagdad line and to cut off the cal amends to the Government of the Mesopotamian valley from the Turk-United States for affronts and indigniby General HUERTA and his represen-Alexandretta on the Mediterranean

> The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations refused to report this reso. Its name would be legion. It is now lution favorably, and reported instead one reading thus:

"Whereas in view of the facts presented by the President of the United States in his address delivered to the Congress at the joint session on the ists. But why should they not admit that twentieth day of April, 1914, with rethey are "timid" in the face of not gard to certain affronts and indignities merely a German threat but its exe- committed against the United States in cution? For even President Wilson Mexico.

"Resolved. That the President is jus tifled in the employment of the armed forces of the United States to enforce cors, had dashingly sneaked up on "timid" when they can get no insur- his demand for unequivocal amends for affronts and indignities committed against the United States.

> "Be it Further Resolved, That the United States disclaims any hostility to the Mexican people of any purpose to

While the Senate was debating the substitute resolution the President used armed forces of the United States to seize and occupy the port of Vera Cruz. The armed forces of the United States thus employed Congress. Only the new members, action to protect American life and property in Mexico, nor to enforce demand for "unequivocal amends for sither case they were foully murdered the Colombian treaty as desired by against the United States," in the ing our womankind there would be cannot pay the prices. Those who conwords of the Senate resolution; nor VICTORIANO HUERTA for unequivocal ships." But they tried unavailingly to every friend we can nold on this side amends," as the House resolution put it; nor even "to obtain from General THE MISSION OF THE U-53. HUERTA and his adherents the fullest German threat kept such vessels tied for our part in conniving at the revoof the United States" as President Wilson phrased it. No; the armed ployed solely to prevent the German of his Gracious and Imperial German steamship Ypiranga from landing Majesty has succeeded in frightening munitions consigned to HUERTA. They were not even used to compel that general and its naval vessels from the salute to the American flag which port of Beyrout in particular, a fairly immediate circumstances, although its HUERTA had refused and which was recent incident, which has been little re ingeniously put forward as a con- ferred to of late, appears in its true structive insult to this country's significance,

In other words, but equivalent and mirably efficient, far seeing and coordinated system, the German Governhonor. unequivocal words, Woodbow Wilson ment, in sending U-53 over here on her asked the Sixty-third Congress to gloriously discharged mission off Nansanction his use of the military power | tucket, to impress upon our people the for a personal purpose in April, 1914, might of the All Highest, and upon our perpendicular. While Congress was eliminating the offensively personal element from its if it did not restrain England from furcompliance with his request he went ther breaches of international law, and ahead anyhow, using the military from pursuing those barbarous practices force at the cost of American lives of orderly search and seizure which cessful. The Ypiranga delivered her ernment, how admirably has it suc-

instead of Vera Cruz. at Colon, forty-eight miles away, were President wants simply a sweeping power of attorney-and a blank check on the Treasury. How under heaven is most pleasing to the Germans? can the Sixty-fourth Congress be expected, in the light of previous exably? How can it do otherwise than say so. precisely and exactly limit its be stowal of power, a bestowal properly valid for a few days only, but which It appears to be the President's Inten- Blood in his veins, marrow in his bones! tion to validate as long as he can, perhaps until the first Monday of next

The Plain, Hard Fact.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAYT has performed no inconsiderable public service in saying that American citizens What has become of the sait sea ican honor and American territory which must be met.

thing to gain by the construction of this country and shoot at American What has become of the sait sea broad? ise to fill Great Britain's demands for the canal, became enraged and threw citizens in the streets of New York

flagrant than the shelling or torpe-

doing of an American vessel. Should such a thing not only occur, but occur after open threats by could we put up with it? Could we ontent ourselves with handing an mbassador his passports and then lebating the expediency of furnishing our occupation we must dress well, and money for the charitable amelioration pedestrians with weapons to defend certain things must continually be pur- of the present food shortage in the stor

Speculation as to whether the next Congress is to be "better" than this outcoing one may be aided by the recolfists, Balley of Pennsylvania, Taven-

eriously agitated about food conditions in New York city until they are no longer profitable in the dis-tricts from which the loudest com-

After all, the New Jersey Republicans are not as unkind to Mr. Wil-son as is the Democratic Congress. New Jersey Legislature proposes to repeal only six of the seven sister laws; the Congress has dumped Mr.

Dr. ELLERY C. STOWELL Says: "Th resident's message must come as a painful shock to all those who were counting upon him to take immediate

rights." But were there any such?

We are amazed at the moderatio f the Utica Observer when it says that an automobile road (one is proposed) to the summit of Whiteface that peerless Adirondack mountain beautiful in all lights from any distance, "would mean a certain damage that could never be repaired." up to make a macademized road for wheeled vehicles? Literally thousands of climbers, women and children as ties committed against this Government well as men, make the ascent with transports of delight every year. vote could be taken not one of them would want to see the honking autoseen on every road in the Adirondack region that commands glorious views Scores of panoramas can be enjoyed

The peak of Whiteface is not nec essary to the pleasure of automobil-Have the mountain lovers no privileges but they must be shared oner or later with the blessed ones who ride nonchalantly in touring cars Profane not the noble sanctuary of this mountain with a road for devil wagons.

A Manhattan preacher has called the cave man "a hideous creature of This is too severe. The cave man was an early apostle of Kultur, advance agent of Frightfulness leader in the school of efficient ruth lessness. To denounce him is to come perflously close to unneutrality.

As 342 out of 430 members of the present House of Representatives were reelected last November Mr. Wilson must have exaggerated when he said without the authority of the Sixty- eighty-eight, would have to make the third Congress were not put into journey to Washington, and they stocks continue to be robust. would have precious little to say about organization.

affronts and indignities committed dum before sinking our ships and kill- and then find out that the consumer more reason for our taking one before "to enforce demands made upon applying the customary methods of self-defence.

of the Laying Up of Our Liners.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In forces of the United States were em- view of the fact that the Government ing the flag this seems a proper time to the greater part of the merchant marine of this country from the high seas in Was it not the intention of that ad-

flesh? Are not our livers turned to And now the Sixty-fourth Congress, water? "For the great day of his wrath killed a Chinaman peacefully sleeping in its last days, sees President is come and who shall be able to stand?" Wilson come before it asking for and power and embarrassed by the com-Faced with such Prussian efficiency power. There is no definite statement save us, had we not better apologize for of purpose, no suggestion of a pro- our somewhat hasty action in dismissing gramme or policy to be pursued. The our tried and true friend Von Bernstorff, ask that he be sent back to us for our further enlightenment, and paint our ships in whatever cheerful manner Of course, if the American people d not care to submit and decide to take

NEW YORK, February 26.

Never his colors would be strike

'Mine is the freedom of the seu!

The Salt Sea Brood. Oh, for a man of the stripe of Jones

Right or wrong, mine own country!" Oh, for a man of the Lawrence cut! Oh, for a man like Farragut! Oh, for the men of good red blood!

Hear their laughter rise and swell! Oh, for the men of the stripe of Jones

FEEDING FOUR ON \$4. Particulars of a Food Budget Now Actually in Operation.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SET! live on the West Side within a few doors of Fifth avenue. My family consists cle under the head "Starvation?" another of 10. We all work hard and lam that is prompting the present Conmust have enough to eat. Because of gress to appropriate a large sum hased which those living on the East achs of a certain class of anarchisti Side among "starving rioters" never think of needing. After deducting for our monthly rent I have the end sum of \$7 weekly on which to clothe, feed, pay laundry bills, purchase two NER of Illinois and Callaway of Texas, dentals which are an every day neces sity. We dress well, feed well and do not run in debt, and have every mont this winter visited a good theatre.

The cost of our living for a week is pnokages cereal \$0.40 pound oleomargarine.....pounds of peanut butter..... pounds of potatoes....... pounds of parentps.

Every morning for breakfast we have ereal and cream, perhaps an orange butter. This can be bought at a number of stores throughout Greater New York at 12 cents a pound and it is rich sists of one vegetable, bread and, butstitute plain boiled rice with brown gravy made by placing hamburg steak iredged with flour in the oven and baking it. I save the meat for the next day and make the gravy by adding flour mixed to a smooth paste to water citizen. He looked upon his Gov poured into the baking pan after the ment as a vampire looks upon its

Bananas can be purchased at almost anges can be bought for the same price buy tea by the pound; sugar, 25 cents worth at a time. This quantity lasts me two weeks. I always have cocoa and coffee in the house and substitute them at times for tea. But the entire cost of our living each week is never above \$4. lings and slaves, recruited mainly from and is usually below.

It is strange to me that in all the living the nutritive values of peanut butter and bananas are not mentioned These can readily be obtained, and if those East Siders who are "starving" vould substitute the whole wheat fo the expensive and non-nutritive rolls for breakfast they wouldn't die of mal-

I honestly believe the whole turno caused by the ignorance of women who spend money foolishly, combined with a pro-German desire to see an embargo on foodstuffs declared and thus injure the country. "God knows where put our hand to the plough, do not plod on to the end of the furrow.

AN OLD TIME AMERICAN. New York, February 27.

PLENTY OF FOOD?

If So, Judicious Refusals to Buy Will Regulate High Prices.

foods she must have going beyond her guilty of a buil, to wit: in his address on Monday that it would she knows best where the shoe pinches. take "an unusual length of time to If one can correctly judge from the assemble and organize" the Sixty-fifth stocks of goods in the retail stores there seems to be plenty of food. While

If dealers would refuse to pay lators' prices the matter would curitself. They might just as well quit buying at speculative prices as to buy to laugh! doubtless would not help the poor.

NEW YORK, February 27.

Hanging the Fing.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! In view of the discussion that has been carried on through the columns of THE SUN relative to the proper way of hangacquaint your readers with the fact that the flag committee of Irondequoit Chaper. D. A. R., has written to the Rochester Chamber of Commerce about the respect due the American flag. According to

1. Display Old Glory from its own

zontal, or in upper right hand corner if this do nothing Administration

3 Put it higher than your head. Some correspondents have disagreed suggestion that when the flag is hung occupy the upper right hand corner as property. for a petty and unworthy personal have proved quite as effective as a you stand looking at the banner, but it object, which was, after all, not suc-deed the intention of the German Govably neither the D. A. R. nor THE SUN the harbor, whose net contribution cargo to Huertistas at Puerto Mexico ceeded! Are we not covered with goose can be accepted as final authority on weight and should tend to clear the New York, February 27. difference of opinion.

A Word for the Electric Drive.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: The opponents of the electric drive now demand that a civilian "board" be appointed to review the whole matter. The Navy Department is not run by outside debating societies. If officials who made the present decision are thought incompetent, the proper course is to make charges against them. We put them perience, to view the proposal favor- a hand in the matter they have only to where they are to use their official discretion. Having done that, they are no more amenable to a "board" of engineers than is a Judge, under like conditions, to a committee of lawyers. That the proposed electric machinery

is probably the best of its kind at hand seems to be shown by the omission of its critics to tell us how to better it If they knew, the joy of present victory, let alone patriotism, would set them trumpeting from the housetops. PARK BENJAMIN.

NEW YORK, February 27.

Rainy Day Thoughts of a Dyspeptic. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If

man attempts suicide, no matter for what cause, he is jailed. If he wants food and has no money to pay for it and does not steal it he is committing suicide just the same. If he steals it to keep himself alive he is jailed for theft. So be is damned if he does and damned if C. D. L. The New Soug.

"Columbia, Jammed off the ocean."

WHEN MEN DECAY. An Unpleasant Citation From th History of Bome.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: have read with much interest the artiagitators, incompetents and ne'er-d wells throughout the country.

such is about the sense of it, and I ac cuse you of plagiarism. Your editoria newspapers every day (Sunday in-cluded), and compass the hundred inci-isted in ancient Rome from the time haritable feeding of the multitude was begun by Catus Gracchus down to the ime of the toppling and fall of the em pire. Your editorial article would per fectly fit the pages of a Roman news aper of that period.

The inhabitants of Rome during that period were divided into three main classes, the rich land owning, slave own ing upper class, the slaves, and the par lower citizen class that had become pauperized and degraded by the hypocritical charitable methods now under favorable consideration by our present Congress, which you wisely

The assumption was that the people ple's good, but the true reason for the public feeding was to control the vote of the underwhelms. These who sought in food value. Our dinner at night con- office must have the votes of the com ter or peanut butter, and a salad of largest charitable donations at Govern action for the vindication of American bananas and oranges. Sometimes I sub- ment expense was elected. Consequently the more unscrupulous the political demagogue the surer was he of the suppor

This system soon killed the spirit of patriotism in the heart of the Roman citizen. He looked upon his Govern tim. The upper class looked upon the common people as a despicable, paratious persons must have at whatever public cost,

The Roman citisen-soldier class con sequently went out of existence, and the empire devolved were composed of hirethe very people and the very nations ugainst which the empire had to defend

These conditions gave birth to the sathered to himself, for the protection of himself, his retainers and his prop erty, a large number of slaves and mem bers of the parasite class. He lived it enough to defy his own Government and laugh at his king or emperor. The common herd was glad, for

own protection, to give itself over utterly to the domination of the Have we begun to see the passing the great American Republic

. HUDSON MAXIM

BACKING THE PRESIDENT. Cynical Thoughts of a Man With American Sympathies

BROOKLYN, February 27.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: May housekeeper sees the prices of the and assert that the writer thereof is

> Why cannot mass meetings be grees? I venture to say that the halls would be filled to overflowing, and to a man those gathered there would back the

Now for the love of Mike and Pat and Dennis, back the President in what? it is always back, back! Back up back down, but never backbone! It is A CELT.

New York, February 27.

Conditional Prediction of a German Prince in the White House.

us hope that the Republican Senators will not weaken in the stand they are had tried to take the Philippines, but have colored his opinions. Reyes, said to have taken to block legislation said to have taken to block legislation was thwarted by Dewey. "If I had said was authorized to offer the care on some of the important appropriation had a large fleet," the Kaiser said concession for eight millions insteads bills in order to force President Wilson after his discomniture at Manila, "I ten millions, if our Government work

to call the new Congress together The incoming Congress might be supposed to be more patriotic than the thwarted also in his effort to buy two submitted this offer to President Rome supine body which, heaven be thanked, great harbors "for his personal use" velt, they took their hats and walks is about to expire.

The nation needs a trained army and needs it badly. The new army bill, pro- one of the Margarita Islands; and the letters they read; but would not the D. A. R. three rules that should be viding for compulsory military service, only a few months before, in his at- give a decision until the next mem should be passed this spring and then tempt to occupy Venezuelan ports, he ing. Then he announced that h training camps could be established in had been compelled to back down when would not hear of the proposal flagpole, by day only, with union at top various parts of the country and the President Roosevelt informed him abandon Panama. work of making an army at least could through the German Ambassador 2. If no staff is available, hang the be started this summer; otherwise noth-flag undraped against a wall, right side ling can be done until next winter and a Kalser must consent within thirty-six "Colombia would have settled for five out, which will bring the union in upper full year will go into the scrap hours to arbitrate his dispute with millions rather than lose all." left hand corner if the stars are hori- along with the other wasted years of Venezuela or risk an encounter with

I do not profess to be much of a military man, my sole experience having the I nited States as much as possible salve the feelings of the Colour a been as a private in the Army of the and to secure the Isthmian Canal for with THE SUN regarding the latter's Potomac, but I do know that this great German builders and German control, nation needs an army bit enough to af- it he could. That German agents were to succeed, it would be equivalent vertically the stars should be made to ford protection to its citizens and its should encourage the Colombians to If Germany's barbarous submarine

warfare should lead to her triumph it Government regarded solemn treaties will be good-by the United States and as mere scraps of paper. we shall have a German Prince presiding in the White House. M. T. R.

An American's Creed. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIC: Mr.

Wilson is our President, whether we like it or not, and all good citizens must stand by him. We have a right to demand of him, however, that he defend Americans' right to sail the seas and protect their lives while exercising that | We also have a right to demand that

the country has confidence, capable, patriotic men, and Josephus Daniels i It is time that partisan politics should be dropped and the best men in the country be called on for patriotic

humiliation. For God's sake let us line up with the white people of the world. Let Mr. Wilson declare war on the Huns and give us a chance to be proud that we are Americans once more.

J. A. MCMILLAN

PITTSTON, Pa., February 27.

Long Time Between Cakes From the Elkton Democrat.

prietor of Rice's bakery, baked a wedding cake for the marriage of Mr. and Mr. William R. Wallis of Jarrettsville, and dur-ing the last week he had the unusual pleasure of duplicating the order for the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anni-

DO WE OWE COLOMBIA ANY SCIENCE MONEY?

The Author of the "Life and Letters of John Hay" Reviews Events Pres. ing the Panama Revolution by German Agents.

Although the likelihood that Con- had an immediate international van gress will pay the large sum of deferred hush money to Colombia seems small, it may be well to state afresh the main points of the original transaction.

In preparing the "Life and Letters of John Hay" I had access to all Mr Hay's material, including his private letter books, so that I have knowlnever been published. Certainly, the good people who have been persuaded e Colombians and their lobby Washington to pay Colombia an mmense sum in order to clear the conscience of the United States have been governed by plous emotion rather than by acquaintance with the facts. It will be remembered that two

routes, the Panama and the Nicaragua, were discussed as possible for the interoceanic canal. After investigation by a commission of experts created by Congress, the Panama route was preferred, and President Roosevel empowered to make such terms as he could with the French Cana De Lesseps company, and with the Government of Colombia. Work by the French company had ceased, but the work already done by it was esti mated at forty million dollars, and the company agreed to sell out to the Inited States. Colombia sent to Washington Dr. Thomas Herran with full powers and instructions to negotiate a reaty for ceding to the United States the rights and territory for the canal. our negotiations, and on January 27. 1903, the treaty was duly signed by him and Herran. On March 17 the American Senate ratified it. Colombla was to receive \$10,000,000 outright and after nine years an annual bonus of \$250,000.

At Bogota the ratification of the treaty was delayed, although the terms had been approved by the lombian administration, and the delay continued throughout the summer Nevertheless, high officials kept prom-Ising that the ratification would surely be made; but autumn came and the matter was still unsettled when the 'olombian Congress adjourned.

Meanwhile the political ring which controlled the Colombian Government thought that they saw a chance greatly to swell their profits by the transaction. They tried to blackmai the French company to pay them \$10,000,000 additional for permission to sell out to the United States. When the French company refused the ring resorted to an amazing breach of contract. In renewing her concession to the French a few years before Colombia had extended this time from 1904 to 1919. Now the Colombian blackmailers declared that the extension was not valid and that the French concession would expire in 1904.

This meant that in about a year al rights in the canal, including the call your attention to the communi- considerable excavation already completed, would revert to Colombia By this quick and casy method the ring at \$40,000,000, and they could demand as much in excess of this from the next hidder for the right to construct the

canal as they chose. Whether the Colombians originated this dishonest project themselves, or were put up to it by the German agents, open and secret, who infested Bogota, I do not know; but there is no question of the persistence of those agents, and Secretary Hay had reason to believe that it was this German influence which dissuaded the Colombian

in Lower California, and in surrepti- across Lafayette Square to see Hig. tiously establishing a naval base on the American fleet. Naturally, there- affair was closed, the American Con fore, the Kaiser wished to embarrass gress is urged to pay \$25,000,000 to go back on an official contract was agents at Bogota, who, in order to it also in keeping; for their Kaiser and Jure the United States, persuaded the

By a strange and noticeable inconsistency the American phlianthropists that finished diplomat Hr. 11657 whose consciences have been made raw from thinking over the wrongs ione to the Colombian ringsters at Bogota have never expressed the pitious; the Danish King and Cabo slightest sympathy for the people of Panama. Probably this oversight ex- project, but it was defeated in plains the debatable judgment of those philanthropists in the "rape of Pan- Hay had good reason to believe ama." In fact Panama was one of the the defeat had been secured States of Colombia, and for years it Kalser, whose agent, were as b had plotted to win its independence. the Danish Parliament as they The reason was clear. Although Co- the American Congress. A few lombia was supposed to have great ago the United States being he surround himself with men in whom mineral and other resources, the islands for \$1,000,000 Colombians possessed neither the capi- more than we should have pultal nor the energy to develop those for the actuaty of the resources. Panama, however, being us. the strip connecting the two oceans,

> ICA DO? Positive Opinion That Her Nations

Will Act With the United States.

between the United States and Ger- joa and vice versa, and lastly. many, South America is left "out in | America can be compared with his the cold."

swer is, "What will South America do would be difficult for all of them if the United States takes an active nearly all of them to unite. I state Will Panpart in the present war?" Americanism continue? Will some un- enter with the United States and neutral country in the neighboring con- against it. tinent take active measures against the United States so that they may gain States and Pan-Americanism forever ommercially by it?

South America as a whole is larger

Whatever this earned in concessed isthmian railroad and travel did w stay in sanams, but went up a Bogota to enrich the politicians the The Panamans had nothing to be them to Colombia, from which be received no favors; whereas Colonis cherished Panama as the source much wealth. So the Panamans b long asked each other, in substan Why shouldn't we own ourselves?

When the possibility loomed up ! the Americans would build the cr by the Panama route the Panam grew more eager for independed and in the course of two years, la 1901, they indulged in four revolution against the Colombians. That American agents, especially persons in ested in the French Canal Compe abetted them there can be no dos and finally, in October, 1903, Bunau-Varilla openly conducted terviews with Secretary Hay, who gay him no encouragement, and with Pres. dent Roosevelt, who told him the American warships were near to isthmus and would keep the trans across it open, as this Government was pledged to do. Whether the President then promised Bunau-Varia that these American ships would prevent the "landing of any armed form either Government or insurgent, any point within fifty miles of Past ama," I do not know. The record show that these instructions were issued only on November 2, the de before the "revolution" took plan There is no doubt, however, that the order did prevent a Colombian trasport from landing troops, assistant which gave the Panamans an es and quick victory. On November the Republic of Panama was pro claimed; on November 6 the United States recognized it; and soon there

rejected was ratified. My sympathy in this transaction b with the Panamans, who were strugbound them to Colombia: on the contrary, they had suffered for decades from the extortions practised upon them by the politicians at Boseta Their restlessness was not sudden, a frequent attempts to revolt shows and during that very summer of 1903 when the Colombian Government ser Senator Obaldia to be Governor Panama, he gave warning that Panama was forced to revolt in original to secure the canal "he would stan by Panama."

The action of the United States helping Panama is not very dissimil from that of France in helping t American colonies in 1776. Selfterest, as well as sentiment, had part in both transactions. But France after having alded us in becoming dependent, did not thereafter process to indemnify England by a cash jor-

ment for the loss of her colonies The politicians at Bogota, perce ing that they had overreached then selves, tried to win back the good is of the United States. They to see the Panamana receive \$10,000,000 which they had insoler refused. They thought also of permanent profit which the car would bring. So they despatched the most respectable man, ex-Presidet Reyes, to Washington to beg our Go ernment to reconsider. Reyes employ

as counsel Mr. Wayne MacVear in adroitness and resource. Two years ago, when I was collect ing material on this episode in Jet Hav's career I neked Mr. Germany's motives were covious, for his side of the story, 1 is William II, regarded the United States, known him well for many years, in To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: Let which upheld the Monroe Doctrine, as he talked quite freely with me on the hour hour first the Benultium. tion in the Western Hemisphere. He personal dislike of Hay, which me "If I had said, was authorized to offer the can would have taken Uncle Sam by the only throw over the Republic of Pascruff of the neck." He had been ama. Then he described how, have

This, Mr. MacVeagh told me, ve

who was sick in bed. Hay listened!

And now, fourteen years after the Government, which would have take \$5,000,000 in 1903. If such a schem to paying imperially the Germs Colombian politicians not to ratify

canal treaty. Secretary Hay, throat White, negotiated with Denmark treaty for the purchase of the Dans West Indies. Everything seemed # and Danish public opinion favored House of Peers by one rote. WILLIAM ROSCOR THEFT

CAMBRUGE, Moon. February -

vice. Our citizens have suffered enough WHAT WILL SOUTH AMER. richer, more productive and has a let preschant marine then the United St. and although it would be possible them to turn against the I'nited a I am positive that they will never First of all, they are price in

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: I nations, with Uncle Sum of their find that in discussing the recent crisis. Then again, there is a great des Each continent comprises various The question that I am trying to an- tions whose ideals differ; therefore if South America enters the war if A patriot's prayer should be: 11

NEW YORK, February 27.